

SMART CARD CONNECTOR CARRIAGE

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A smart card connector has a carriage (252) that prevents inadvertent card pullout and that pushes the card rearward when a user intends to do so, the carriage being of simple construction and being simply slidably mounted. The connector housing includes an insulative support (52) that is molded with at least one upstanding rib (275, 277) lying beside the card path. The carriage is formed from a piece of sheet metal that is bent to form a pair of flanges (310, 314) that lie on opposite sides of the rib and to form a base (312) that connects the flanges and that lies on top of the rib. One of the flanges forms a blade (184) with a free end, the free end forming a spur (186) for movement into and out of the card path. The housing forms a blade-engaging wall (298, 300) that controls the deflection of the blade so the spur moves into the card path only when the carriage moves forward.

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